

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5, 7-27, 28, 40, 42-44 and 47 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 48-79 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (New). A modified subtilase comprising a mutation in an amino acid sequence of a subtilase, wherein the mutation is an insertion of at least one amino acid residue between:

- (a) positions 51 and 56;
- (b) positions 216 and 217; and/or
- (c) positions 217 and 218;

wherein the positions are numbered according to the amino acid sequence of the mature subtilisin BPN' of SEQ ID NO: 7 and the modified subtilase has subtilase activity.

Claim 49 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, which has a residual activity of at least 10% in the Ovo-inhibition assay.

Claim 50 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 49, which has a residual activity of at least 15%.

Claim 51 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the variant contains two or more insertions.

Claim 52 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 51, wherein the variant contains more than two insertions.

Claim 53 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the insertion is between positions 51 and 52; positions 52 and 53; positions 53 and 54; positions 54 and 55; or positions 55 and 56.

Claim 54 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X51XA, X51XT, X51XG, X51XS, X51XD, X51XE, X51XK, X51XR,

X51XH, X51XV, X51XC, X51XN, X51XQ, X51XF, X51XI, X51XL, X51XM, X51XP, X51XW and X51XY.

Claim 55 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X52XA, X52XT, X52XG, X52XS, X52XD, X52XE, X52XK, X52XR, X52XH, X52XV, X52XC, X52XN, X52XQ, X52XF, X52XI, X52XL, X52XM, X52XP, X52XW and X52XY.

Claim 56 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X53XA, X53XT, X53XG, X53XS, X53XD, X53XE, X53XK, X53XR, X53XH, X53XV, X53XC, X53XN, X53XQ, X53XF, X53XI, X53XL, X53XM, X53XP, X53XW and X53XY.

Claim 57 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X54XA, X54XT, X54XG, X54XS, X54XD, X54XE, X54XK, X54XR, X54XH, X54XV, X54XC, X54XN, X54XQ, X54XF, X54XI, X54XL, X54XM, X54XP, X54XW and X54XY.

Claim 58 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X55XA, X55XT, X55XG, X55XS, X55XD, X55XE, X55XK, X55XR, X55XH, X55XV, X55XC, X55XN, X55XQ, X55XF, X55XI, X55XL, X55XM, X55XP, X55XW and X55XY.

Claim 59 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the insertion is between positions 216 and 217.

Claim 60 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 59, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X216XA, X216XT, X216XG, X216XS, X216XD, X216XE, X216XK, X216XR, X216XH, X216XV, X216XC, X216XN, X216XQ, X216XF, X216XI, X216XL, X216XM, X216XP, X216XW and X216XY.

Claim 61 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the insertion is between positions 217 and 218.

Claim 62 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 61, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X217XA, X217XT, X217XG, X217XS, X217XD, X217XE, X217XK, X217XR, X217XH, X217XV, X217XC, X217XN, X217XQ, X217XF, X217XI, X217XL, X217XM, X217XP, X217XW and X217XY.

Claim 63 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the subtilase is a sub-group I-S1 subtilase.

Claim 64 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 63, wherein the subtilase is selected from the group consisting of subtilisin I168, subtilisin BPN', subtilisin DY, and subtilisin Carlsberg.

Claim 65 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the subtilase is a sub-group I-S2 subtilase.

Claim 66 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 65, wherein the subtilase is selected from the group consisting of subtilisin 147, subtilisin 309, subtilisin PB92, and subtilisin YaB.

Claim 67 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the variant comprises at least one further mutation.

Claim 68 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 67, wherein the at least one further mutation is a substitution.

Claim 69 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 67, wherein the at least one further mutation is at position 27, 36, 56, 76, 87, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 120, 123, 129, 131, 132, 133, 143, 159, 167, 170, 192, 194, 206, 217, 218, 222, 224, 232, 235, 236, 245, 248, 252 or 274.

Claim 70 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 69, wherein the variant further comprises the modification S101G+S103A+V104I+G159D+A232V+Q236H+Q245R+N248D+N252K.

Claim 71 (New). The subtilase variant of claim 48, further comprising an insertion of at least one additional amino acid residue in the active site loop (b) region from position 95 to 103.

Claim 72 (New). A cleaning or detergent composition, comprising the subtilase variant of claim 48 and a surfactant.

Claim 73 (New). The composition of claim 72, which additionally comprises an amylase, cellulase, cutinase, lipase, oxidoreductase, another protease, or combination thereof.

Claim 74 (New). A method for removal of egg stains from a hard surface or from laundry, comprising contacting the egg stain-containing hard surface or the egg stain-containing laundry with a cleaning or detergent composition of claim 72.

Claim 75 (New). An isolated polynucleotide with a DNA sequence encoding a subtilase variant of claim 48.

Claim 76 (New). An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 75.

Claim 77 (New). A microbial host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 76.

Claim 78 (New). A microbial host cell of claim 77, which is a bacterium.

Claim 79 (New). A method for producing a subtilase variant, comprising
(a) culturing a host of claim 77 under conditions conducive to the expression and secretion of the variant, and
(b) recovering the variant.